

***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD***

Washington, DC 20423

**MEMORANDUM**

January 28, 2004

To: Elected Officials  
Federal Agency Points of Contact  
Tribal Representatives  
State Agency Points of Contact  
Local Organizations  
Interested Members of the Public

From: Surface Transportation Board, Section of Environmental Analysis

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX

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Enclosed please find a copy of a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Surface Transportation Board has determined that because of public controversy associated with Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed construction and operation of a seven mile rail line in Medina County, Texas, preparation of an EIS is appropriate here.

The enclosed Notice of Intent begins the "formal scoping" process. This is the first formal step in public participation. The purpose of scoping is to identify the potential issues, concerns, and opportunities for public involvement associated with the proposed project. We have identified some issues, which we have listed and discussed in the attached draft scope of study for the proposal. We would like you to review the draft scope and send us any comments you may have to help us develop a comprehensive and sound EIS. Please identify specific issues to be considered, places within the project area that are important, or suggestions to improve or change the project, including your ideas for alternatives.

Please mail your comments to: Surface Transportation Board, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20423-0001, to the attention of Rini Ghosh. Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 34284 in all correspondence addressed to the Board. To be most useful to the environmental review team, we should have your comments by February 26, 2004. For further information or to notify us that you would like to be removed from the environmental mailing list, please call the project information line at (512) 419-5941.

Enclosure